

STATE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

FINAL CEREAL HARVEST FORECAST, 1940-41.

	Acreage (1000)		Yield (1000 Bush)		Bush. per acre	
	1940-41	1939-40	1940-41	1939-40	1940-41	1939-40
WHEAT.						
Central	410	446	4,300	8,283	10.5	18.6
Lower North	630	693	4,750	15,339	7.5	22.1
Upper North	210	244	575	4,263	2.7	17.4
South Eastern	35	33	575	745	16.4	22.8
Western	745	724	4,925	8,857	6.6	12.2
Murray Mallee	570	595	2,875	3,584	5.0	6.0
Total	2,600	2,735	18,000	41,071	6.9	15.0
BARLEY - Total	510	504	5,350	9,960	10.5	19.8
OATS - "	580	349	2,250	4,063	3.9	11.6
			(1000 Tons)		Tons per acre	
HAY-Wheaten	240	198	230	264	1.0	1.3
Oaten	190	303	160	338	.8	1.1
Total W. & O.	430	501	390	602	.9	1.2

Compared with the 1939-40 figures - in parentheses - the total area sown for all purposes (grain, hay and green fodder) is estimated to have been - Wheat 2,850,000 (2,948,109), Barley 540,000 (558,559), Oats 830,000 (834,793) acres.

Included in the grain areas are Wheat 550,000, Barley 90,000 and Oats 270,000 acres, which are estimated to have failed completely or had stock turned on them to obtain any return from them.

Taking the agricultural areas of the State as a whole, the rainfall from April to November was the second driest on record, the total for 1940 being 8.38 inches compared with 6.77 in 1914 and the mean for the previous 35 years of 12.53 inches. The average yields per acre are 1940 - 6.9 bushels estimated, 1914 - 1.41, and the mean 10.60 bushels. Further information re the 1940 rainfall and comparisons of wheat yields and low rainfalls was given in Bulletin No. 29 - November Wheat Forecast.

Although it was such a very dry season, there were fortunately very few other disabilities. Also the weather during the latter part of October and November was cool and showery and resulted in slightly improved yields.

The estimated total of 18,000,000 bushels of wheat is the lowest recorded since 1919-20 (14,980,413 bushels) and is only approximately half of the average of the past 10 seasons (36,472,824 bushels).

In preparing the estimate, the most doubtful factor has been the acreage failed or fed off and any discrepancy in the estimated yields probably would be due to this factor. In November a yield of 19,000,000 bushels was anticipated, but it is now considered that larger areas failed than the November reports indicated.

The acreage estimated to have been cut for hay is much below the average. It is reported that farmers cut more for hay in those districts where it was profitable to do so, but in many districts the crops were too short for binding. In a number of districts the oaten crops were more severely affected than the wheaten and very small acreages were suitable for cutting. The wheaten hay acreage is greater than usual.

Method of Estimating - The Wheat areas are subdivided into 500 districts and estimates are made for each of these. Acreage Sown - At beginning of season, the area to be sown is obtained from all farmers, and adjusted as per reports received after sowing.

Tabulation - General Reports are obtained from Police Officers for each District and through them 20% of the farmers, representing over 25% of the acreage sown, report their prospects as at end of November.